



Jessica Ellis, right, and other supporters of the Affordable Care Act react with cheers as the opinion for health care is reported outside of the Supreme Court in Washington, Thursday June 25, 2015, in Washington. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin) Page 3



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House completes Obama trade package; now onto Pacific pact

C. BABINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-led Congress rounded out President Barack Obama's trade package Thursday, overwhelmingly passing a worker training program just weeks after it was stymied. The House of Representatives voted 286 to 138 to renew the program for workers displaced by international trade. Obama had said he wanted to sign that bill alongside the "fast track" authority for negotiating trade agreements that Congress approved a day earlier.

Usually a Democratic priority, the retraining bill briefly became hostage to Democrats' failed efforts to block the fast track measure. Obama and his trade opponents are now shifting their focus to proposed trade agreements under negotiation for years. The first, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, involves the United States, Japan, Canada and nine other Pacific Rim nations.

The fast-track law allows Congress to ratify or reject such agreements, but not change or block them.

The president, in a written statement, said the congressional votes "represent a much-needed win for hardworking American families."

He also said he will press lawmakers to send him legislation "that will help us crack down on countries that break the rules."

The House and Senate have passed different versions of the measure, and are expected to hold compromise talks next month.

Most House Democrats, along with major labor unions, opposed fast track, saying free-trade pacts send U.S. jobs abroad.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, said Thursday's votes mark "the end of phase one" in the trade debate, but "the fight will continue."

The next step, she said, is "to shine a sharp, clear, bright light" on details of the Pacific-rim proposal.

Passage of the trade bills mark a huge win for the president,

and one paradoxically spearheaded by Republicans. And it's a defeat for trade unions and environmental groups that fiercely opposed it. □

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Obamacare Law Survives Supreme Court Fight

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court sent a clear message Thursday that President Barack Obama's health care overhaul is here to stay, rejecting a major challenge that would have imperiled the landmark law and health insurance for millions of Americans.

The president's signature domestic reform, known as Obamacare is, as the president himself put it, "reality." The law, which was passed in 2010 without a single Republican vote, prevents insurance companies from denying coverage because of "pre-existing" health conditions. It requires almost everyone in the U.S. to be insured and

provides financial help to consumers who otherwise would not be able to afford it. The United States is the only major world economy that does not have a comprehensive state health care system.

The 6-3 ruling, which upheld financial aid to millions of low- and middle-income Americans to help cover insurance costs regardless of local regulations in their states, was the second major victory in three years for Obama in politically charged Supreme Court tests of the law.

Obama greeted news of the health care decision by declaring the law is no longer about politics but the benefits millions of people are receiving. "This is no longer about a law," he said



President Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden speaks, in the Rose Garden of the White House, Thursday, June 25, 2015, in Washington, after the Supreme Court upheld the subsidies for customers in states that do not operate their own exchanges under President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

at the White House. "This is health care in America." Declining to concede, top Republican congressman

John Boehner said members of his party, who have voted more than 50 times to undo the law, will "con-

tinue our efforts to repeal the law and replace it with patient-centered solutions that meet the needs of seniors, small business owners, and middle-class families." Several Republican presidential candidates said they would continue the fight, ensuring it will be an issue in the campaign. While the court's ruling was an important victory for Obama and Democrats, it could also be useful for Republicans as the 2016 presidential and congressional elections heat up. It takes them off the hook, to a degree, from needing to draw up an alternative to Obamacare. Also, it leaves them with the issue to hammer home with their base of support where the law is unpopular. □

Hundreds attend 1st funerals for US church shooting victims

JONATHAN DREW

MEG KINNARD

Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) — A choir and band launched into a gospel tune and roused hundreds of mourners from their seats Thursday in a crescendo of music at the first funeral for victims of the massacre at a historic black church.

Police officers stood guard and checked bags as mourners filed in for the funeral, which was held as the debate over the rebel Confederate flag and other Old South symbols continued. A monument to former Confederate President Jefferson Davis had the phrase "Black Lives Matter" spray-painted on it Thursday in Richmond, Virginia, the latest of several monu-

ments to the secessionist, pro-slavery Confederacy to be defaced.

Nine Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church members were killed when police say a gunman walked into a Bible study June 17 and opened fire in a racially motivated attack. People stood to clap, nod and sway — some closing their eyes under the exertion of the cathartic singing. Ushers walked through the aisles with boxes of tissues for people to dab their tears as an organ, drums and bass guitar played along.

The service was fitting for Ethel Lance, the 70-year-old Charleston native with "an infectious smile." She served with vigor as an officer at Emanuel church, said the church's interim leader,



Brandon Risher, left, is pulled away by a friend as he cries over the casket of his grandmother, Ethel Lance, following her burial service, Thursday, June 25, 2015, in Charleston, S.C. Lance was one of the nine people killed in the shooting at Emanuel AME Church last week in Charleston.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

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on your spiritual seat belt," Goff said.

Despite pleas to withhold debate until after the funerals, the South Carolina governor's call to remove the Confederate flag from in front of the Statehouse in response to the killings was reverberating around the South. A growing number of leading politicians said Civil War symbols should be removed from places of

honor, despite their integral role as elements of southern identity.

Some authorities have worried openly about a backlash as people take matters into their own hands.

"Black Lives Matter" was spray-painted on a monument to Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Richmond, Virginia, on Thursday, only the latest statue to be defaced. □

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Arrested US jail guard denies knowing of escape plan

BONNY GHOSH

Associated Press

PLATTSBURGH, New York

(AP) — A U.S. prison guard charged in connection with the escape of two killers admitted providing them with tools, paint, frozen hamburger meat and access to a catwalk electrical box, but claims he never knew they planned to bust out, authorities say. As the search for the convicts entered its 20th day Thursday, Gene Palmer was released on \$25,000 bail after his arrest on charges of promoting prison contraband, tampering with evidence and official misconduct. His arraignment was postponed until Monday.

Palmer is the second Clinton Correctional Facility employee to be charged since two convicted murderers, Richard Matt and David Sweat, cut their way out of the maximum-security prison in far northern New York, close to the Canadian border, on June 6. A prison tailor shop instructor Joyce Mitchell, 51, is charged with helping them break out.

But in contrast to the allegations against Mitchell, Palmer said he was an un-

witting helper.

"I did not realize at the time that the assistance provided to Matt or Sweat made their escape easier," he told authorities in a signed statement.

District Attorney Andrew Wylie said that based on Palmer's statements and a polygraph test, investigators have no reason to believe he was knowingly involved in the escape.

In the statement, Palmer admitted providing Matt with paint and paintbrushes. On four occasions over eight months, he supplied Sweat with needle-nose pliers and a screwdriver. He said he gave Sweat access to the catwalk later used in the escape to change the wiring on electrical boxes as "a favor" to make it easier for them to cook in their cells. And a week before the escape, he delivered to Matt a pound of frozen ground beef in a package left by Mitchell.

Palmer told investigators that he agreed to help the pair in return for information about some illegal acts the other inmates were engaged in.

Wylie said Mitchell told investigators she smuggled



A New York State Police officer escorts suspended Clinton Correctional Facility guard Gene Palmer, left, from Plattsburgh Town Court in Plattsburgh, N.Y. Palmer is believed to have delivered tools inside frozen meat to two Clinton Correctional Facility inmates before they escaped on June 6. He faces charges including promoting prison contraband and tampering with physical evidence, state police said.

(Rob Fountain/The Press-Republican via AP)

hacksaw blades, a screwdriver and other tools into the prison by hiding them in the frozen meat.

She then put the meat in a refrigerator in the tailor shop, and Palmer took the meat to Sweat and Matt, who were housed in a section where inmates are allowed to cook their meals, according to the district attorney. □

Baltimore PD:

Unarmed black man shot dead by officers

JULIET LINDERMAN

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Maryland

(AP) — An unarmed black man was fatally shot Thursday by officers in suburban Baltimore who thought he had a weapon when they were called to a home from which he was barred by protective order, the police chief said.

The death follows that of a 25-year-old black man who died in April from an injury suffered in the custody of Baltimore city police, which prompted protests and rioting. And it comes amid a national debate over the treatment of African-Americans at the hands of police, after high-profile deaths of black men in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City.

Spencer Lee McCain, 41, was shot about 1 a.m. at the home in Owings Mills while a woman who said he threatened to beat her and her two young children were there, Baltimore County Police Chief Jim Johnson said at a news conference.

Three officers were on the scene, and all fired as McCain was in a "defensive position" and they thought he had a weapon, Johnson said. But he said no weapon was found. Two of the officers are white, and one is black, police said. All are on administrative leave. Police said the incident began when one of the children in the home called his grandmother, who called 911 and asked police to go there.

An officer who arrived heard screams and called for backup, Johnson said. He said 19 casings were found at the scene, but it wasn't clear how many times McCain was hit.

Police said the woman had head injuries, cuts, bruises and swelling. Johnson said she told detectives that McCain said to her, "You're going to get the beating you deserve."

Sixteen to 20 domestic violence calls had been made to that home address since 2012, police spokesman Cpl. John Wachter said. According to 2013 census figures, 27.5 percent of Baltimore County's population is black and 64.1 percent is white. The police chief and county executive are white. □

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Confederate group seen losing its Southern influence

JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina

(AP) — The Sons of Confederate Veterans knew an attack on their cherished symbols would come after seeing photos of the white man accused of killing nine black churchgoers displaying rebel Confederate battle flags. They just didn't expect it from conservative Republicans. Last week's shootings at a historic African-American church in Charleston were so heinous that Confederate symbols suddenly became a drag on the aspirations of a Republican party hoping to regain the presidency in 2016. Shocking photographs of the suspect displaying Confederate battle flags made it easy for Republicans to



Sons of Confederate Veterans member Dickie Phalen speaks to reporters at the South Carolina Statehouse after a rally to support the Confederate flag on Thursday, June 25, 2015, in Columbia, S.C.

"It's not fair to brand all persons who support flying the Confederate flag as racist. But it's fair to say that they've lost the branding war on whatever statement they want to make, whether it's 'heritage' or 'history' or something more cynical," Lake said.

Just how much influence the Sons of Confederate Veterans and similar organizations still have may become apparent in Mississippi's elections this year. Several powerful Mississippi Republicans called for the Confederate symbol to be removed from the state's flag, even though voters overwhelmingly endorsed the current design in 2001. Gov. Phil Bryant has not declared his intentions yet, but the entire legislature and all statewide officers will be pushed to take their stands.

The Sons don't plan to surrender. In South Carolina, the group is vowing to fight any effort to send it off to the state's Confederate Relic Room or some other museum. In Alabama, they are already taking aim at Gov. Bentley.

But contrary forces have been massing quietly for a while across the region. Much of the Southeast's new population has migrated from elsewhere, and lack ties to its past. Census data shows native-born residents declined in every state of the old Confederacy from 2000 to 2010, led by South Carolina, which dropped from 64 percent to 59 percent native-born.

Auto and airline manufacturing and other new industries brought in new crops of employees and executives unwilling to stomach unfavorable publicity in an era when social media can spread bad news in an instant. □

(AP Photo/Jeffrey Collins)

break away. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley spent an intense weekend consulting with party leaders before urging her state's lawmakers to remove the rebel banner from the Statehouse grounds. Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley then acted by executive order, taking down Civil-War era flags outside the Montgomery capitol, where the pro-slavery Confederacy was born when 11 states seceded in 1861. Leland Summers, the group's leader in South Carolina, said he now feels betrayed by the same Republicans who courted the organization's loyalties for decades to win the conservative white votes that relegated Democrats to a permanent minority party across the South. "We knew it was coming," Summers said Thursday, but these moves by con-

servative governors came as complete surprise. The Sons of Confederate Veterans were founded in 1896 as a way to honor ancestors who fought for the rebel South, placing historically accurate Confederate flags on Southern soldiers' graves and re-enacting Civil War battles. By the 1950s and 60s, the symbols took on new meanings, as segregationist politicians hoisted flags to protest federal efforts to establish equal rights for all races. A generation later, as civil rights activists demanded that the flags come down, Summers and others insisted that these symbols are about heritage, not racism. And Republicans went along. In an instant, the images of Dylann Storm Roof posing with rebel battle flags changed this dynamic, said Chip Lake, a Republican strategist in Georgia.

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US Financial Front:

Consumers ramp up May spending; largest gain since 2009



Shopper Julian Fojon-Losada, of Georgia, checks a coconut at a local fruit store in the Little Havana area of Miami. The Commerce Department released its May report on consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, on Thursday, June 25, 2015.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer spending surged in May with the biggest monthly increase in nearly six years — a sign of stronger economic growth ahead.

The Commerce Department said Thursday that consumer spending rose 0.9 percent last month, up from a revised 0.1 percent increase in April.

May spending registered the biggest gain since August 2009, when the government's "Cash for Clunkers" program fueled auto-buying.

The increased spending last month suggests that the positive impacts from solid hiring and cheaper gasoline are starting to ripple through the economy.

"We are finally seeing signs of consumers beginning to spend the gasoline savings they have been sitting on since the start of this year," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

Personal income also increased a healthy 0.5 percent.

The savings rate for after-tax income fell slightly to 5.1 percent from 5.4 percent. Until recently, lower gas

prices and an improved job market were not enough to unlock greater consumer spending. Instead, Americans ramped up their savings.

This helped put their personal finances on a more sustainable path, but it limited the ability of the overall economy — which relies mostly on consumer activity — to grow at a faster pace and potentially boost their incomes.

The consumer spending report confirms signs elsewhere that people are loosening the grip on their wallets. □

NJ family flees home after getting letters from 'Watcher'



This photo shows the home Derek and Maria Broaddus were scared away from because of creepy letters from a stalker, Thursday, June 25, 2015, in Westfield, N.J.

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

ELIZABETH, New Jersey (AP)

— A couple who says they were scared away from their new \$1.4 million home because of creepy letters from a stalker has sued the sellers for not telling them about a person with a "mentally disturbed fixation" on the house.

Derek and Maria Broaddus said the former owners of the home in Westfield, New

Jersey, west of New York City, should have warned them of the person who signs the letters as "The Watcher."

The letter writer claims to have been controlling the house for two decades and that former owners John and Andrea Woods sold it because "it was their time to move on and kindly sold it when I asked them

to," according to the lawsuit filed this month.

"Do you need to fill the house with the young blood I requested?" one letter reads, according to the suit. "Once I know their names I will call to them and draw them too (sic) me."

The lawsuit also names an insurance company and settlement company as defendants. Officials from the companies didn't immediately return calls for comment.

Contact information for the Woods and their attorneys wasn't immediately available.

The Broadduses says they would never have bought the house if the sellers had warned them about the letter writer. They are now attempting to re-sell the house "as they are unable to live in the home without extreme anxiety and fear for their children's safety and wellbeing," according

to the lawsuit.

The suit says they are having a hard time selling because of the letters. They

want the former owners to refund them the purchase price and pay punitive damages. □



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Greek debt talks go into weekend as default deadline looms



Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, center, speaks with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, left, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a round table meeting at an EU summit in Brussels on Thursday, June 25, 2015.

(AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

D. GATOPOULOS
R. CASERT
Associated Press
BRUSSELS (AP) — The bitter standoff between Greece and its international creditors was extended into the weekend, just days before Athens has to meet a crucial debt deadline which could decide whether it goes bankrupt and gets kicked out of the euro currency club.

A key meeting of eurozone finance ministers broke up without agreement on Greece's rescue package on Thursday, intensifying doubts about whether Athens can pay the International Monetary Fund a debt worth 1.6 billion euros (\$1.8 billion) on Tuesday.

An agreement on a drastic Greek tax and austerity reform package is necessary for creditors to unfreeze 7.2 billion euros (8.1 billion dollars) in bailout money that would get Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras off the hook. "European history is full of disagreements, negotiations and at the end, compromises," Tsipras said. "So, after the comprehensive Greek proposals, I am confident that we will reach a compromise."

Lower-level negotiations will continue and a new meeting of eurozone finance ministers is tentatively scheduled for Saturday.

The breakup of the eurozone meeting was the latest in a series of negotiating roadblocks, and a major setback since there had been hopes to reach a deal in time for European leaders to approve it at a summit later Thursday.

The blockage happened after leaders from the IMF, the European Central Bank and the European Commission raised the stakes by putting forward their

joint position on the reforms they would accept to offer Greece a financial lifeline. But Greece, objecting to what it saw as outside interference, was still not on board, and wanted to stick to a previous plan it had offered.

Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis said several ministers within the 19-nation eurozone found that Athens was being pushed too hard. "Interestingly, several colleagues disagreed and criticized not only our text but also the text of the institutions," he said.

Greece's most influential creditor, Germany, had never been optimistic about a breakthrough Thursday.

The Greek government so far has "not moved, rather moved backward," said German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble. He said the chances for success now "lies exclusively with those responsible in Greece."

In Washington, the IMF said Greece wouldn't get any extra time to make the debt repayment due Tuesday.

"We're expecting the payment to be made June 30," IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said, adding that Greece will be granted no extensions. A default on its debts could force Greece out of the eurozone, which would be hugely painful for the country. Some experts say it could be manageable for Europe and the world economy, but that remains unclear and any failure would likely shake global markets.

"When Greece, Europe, the eurozone is at stake, we have to know how to finish negotiations," French President Francois Hollande said. □

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Putin vows to further strengthen Russian military power

V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia needs a mighty military to fend off threats near its borders, President Vladimir Putin said Thursday, in a stance that reflects soaring tensions with the West over the crisis in Ukraine.

The Russian leader, whose approval ratings reached an all-time high this month despite a bruising recession, said a "powerful army equipped with modern weapons is the guarantor of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Russia."

Speaking at Thursday's Kremlin meeting with graduates of Russian military academies, Putin also vowed to continue a sweeping military modernization effort that envisions the purchase of large numbers of new weapons.

Despite the fact that oil-rich Russia is now in a recession, Putin's plan aims to spend

22 trillion rubles (over \$400 billion) through 2020 to give the armed forces dozens of navy ships, hundreds of new planes and missiles and thousands of tanks

cal means with respect to international law and interests of other nations."

Relations between Russia and the West have sunk to post-Cold War lows after



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a meeting of the presidential council on science and education at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.

(Sergei Karpukhin/Pool Photo via AP)

and other weapons.

Putin added that Russia has no aggressive intentions and aims to "settle any disputes exclusively by politi-

Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and its support for a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

The United States and the European Union have responded with sanctions that have sharply limited Russia's access to Western capital markets and curtailed the transfer of military and energy technologies. Russia retaliated by banning the import of agricultural products from the EU, U.S., Australia, Canada and Norway. The Cabinet formally extended the ban by one year after the EU agreed this week to keep its sanctions in place through January.

Coupled with plummeting prices for oil, Western sanctions helped drive the Russian economy into recession, resulting in a drop in incomes for the first time since Putin took the helm in 2000. But despite the economic woes, Putin's popularity has soared.

The president's approval rating reached an all-time high of 89 percent this

month, according to a nationwide poll conducted by the Levada Center, a leading independent opinion research firm.

The survey, based on interviews with 1,600 people, had a margin of error of no more than 3.4 percentage points.

Many observers attribute the solid support for Putin to blanket positive coverage of his activities by state television stations and other Kremlin-controlled media that have described the Ukrainian crisis as part of Western efforts to weaken Russia.

Levada head Lev Gudkov called the TV propaganda as the main factor behind Putin's popularity.

"This is a very aggressive and false propaganda," he said. "All alternative channels, therefore all alternative points of view, assessments are pushed out of the public sphere." □

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Irate French taxi drivers smash cars in strike against Uber

ELAINE GANLEY
LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French taxi drivers pulled out the throttle in an all-out confrontation with the ultra-cheap Uber car service Thursday, smashing livery cars, setting tires ablaze and blocking traffic during a nationwide strike that caught tourists and celebrities alike in the mayhem.

Travelers going to and from the airport were forced to walk alongside highways with their bags, while others, including singer Courtney Love, had their cars set upon by striking taxi drivers. "They've ambushed our car and are holding our driver hostage," Love tweeted.

"They're beating the cars with metal bats. this is France?? I'm safer in Baghdad,"

The French government was aghast, with Prime Minister Manuel Valls lamenting: "These incidents give a deplorable image to visitors of our country." Taxi drivers justified their rage, saying Uber's lowest-cost service UberPop was



A striking taxi driver holds a placard which read, "Stop Uber, Stop listening," referring to the new US spying report in France, during a taxi drivers demonstration in Paris, France, Thursday, June 25, 2015. French taxis are on strike around the country, snarling traffic in major cities and slowing access to Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport after weeks of rising and sometimes violent tensions over Uber.

ruining their livelihoods. Despite repeated rulings against it and an October law that explicitly outlaws UberPop, its drivers continue to ply French roads and the American ride-hailing company is actively re-

cruiting drivers and passengers alike. Uber claims to have a total of 400,000 customers a month in France. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve rushed back from a trip to Marseille to meet with taxi unions, declaring afterward that UberPop must be shut down and its vehicles seized if caught by

(AP Photo/Michel Euler) police carrying passengers. He said 70 vehicles had been damaged around France in Thursday's protests and 10 people were arrested. Cazeneuve said he would meet with UberPop officials to tell them their service is illegal. "It must, therefore, be closed," he said.

"The government will never accept the law of the jungle."

He ordered a meeting of French anti-fraud officials Monday to put in place measures to immediately stop illegal taxis from servicing customers. Only a decision by the Justice Ministry can ban the App for UberPop, he said.

Earlier, Cazeneuve ordered an immediate ban on unlicensed drivers in the Paris region.

That didn't phase Uber France chief Thibaud Simphal, who said on RTL radio he was telling his drivers "to continue." He contended that thus far the justice system "has not demanded that UberPop be forbidden."

Anger seethed across France, with riot police chasing strikers from Paris' ring road, where protesters torched tires and swarmed onto exit ramps during rush hour on the busy artery that leads to Charles de Gaulle airport. In Toulouse in the southwest, angry taxi drivers dumped flour onto UberPop cars, tires were burned in Nantes in the west, and in Lyon, in the southeast, roads were blocked. □

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EU warns UK fundamental values 'not for sale'

JOHN DAHLBURG
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's president warned Britain on Thursday he's open to suggestions on how the bloc must change, but won't compromise on the EU's "fundamental values."

EU President Donald Tusk spoke as bloc leaders gathered for a summit in Brussels.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said he'll use the two-day event to explain to fellow heads of state and government that the 28-nation EU must reform or risk losing the backing of a majority of British voters.

Cameron and his Conservative Party won a general election in May. Cameron has promised a referendum by 2017 on whether Britain, an EU member since 1973,

stays in the bloc or not. But Tusk warned that some things aren't up for discussion.

"The fundamental values of the European Union are not for sale and so are non-negotiable," Tusk said, without specifying what the values were.

Many Britons think the EU meddles too much in their lives, and that their country has ceded too much authority to Brussels. British officials said Cameron wants the EU to focus more on its core competencies like increasing economic competitiveness, and give up the quest for "an ever closer union" in many other fields, like laws on the freedom of movement.

European Parliament President Martin Schulz said he and other members of the

legislature were waiting to hear "concrete proposals" from Cameron.

Schulz, who visited London last week for talks with the British leader, said the EU could easily reach a deal "if the British government makes concrete proposals that will make the EU more democratic, more effective and transparent, and will deepen the single market."

But Schulz, whose home nation of Germany is one of the EU's most influential members, said Cameron shouldn't ask for too much. "Solutions are not brought about by one member state making demands and expecting the others to deliver," he said. "Solutions can only be found by making proposals that will contribute to the common good." □



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Islamic State militants attack 2 cities in northern Syria



An explosion is captured on video by a camera on the Turkish side of the border after a car bomb detonates in the Kurdish town of Kobani, Syria. Militants from the Islamic State group launched swift counteroffensives Thursday on predominantly Kurdish areas of northern Syria.

(AP Photo)

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — After weeks of setbacks, militants from the Islamic State group launched swift counteroffensives Thursday on predominantly Kurdish areas of northern Syria, killing and wounding dozens and setting off car bombs, activists and officials said. The two-pronged attack on the northeastern city of Hassakeh and the border town of Kobani came two days after an Islamic State spokesman acknowledged that the group might lose some battles but would not be defeated. The spokesman, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, had urged militants to strike back at their foes during

the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and “shake the ground beneath them.” The early morning assault by IS captured part of Hassakeh, which has long been divided between Syrian Kurds and the military forces of President Bashar Assad. The militants also hit Kobani, a northern town on Syria's border with Turkey that had become a symbol of Kurdish resistance against the Islamic State extremists. The Kurdish forces, backed by a campaign of U.S.-led airstrikes, drove the militants from Kobani and surrounding villages in January. Thursday's fighting in Kobani killed 35 civilians and Kurdish fighters, and 14 ex-

tremists, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. It was the first time in six months the militants, who set off three car bombs, had managed to enter the town, the group said.

The IS militants, wearing Syrian rebel uniforms and carrying flags of the mainstream Free Syrian Army to deceive the Kurdish defenders, launched their attack from areas to the south and west of Kobani, said Redur Khalil, a spokesman for the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG.

Ghalia Nehme, a commander with the Kurdish Women's Protection Units, told The Associated Press by telephone from Kobani that its fighters were defending a position in the town.

Another Kurdish official in Kobani, Idriss Naasan, said the fighting was intense in the morning but sporadic at midday.

“We hear cracks of gunfire every now and then,” Naasan said around noon, adding that he had heard explosions of unknown origin.

Kobani-based activist Mustafa Bali said in the evening that IS fighters were still in the city and held several buildings, but that YPG fighters were trying to surround them. He said some

IS militants were using civilians as human shields.

Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said on Twitter that four people were killed and 96 people had been wounded in Kobani.

A suicide bomber detonated his car near the border gate, according to two Turkish officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters. Surveillance video seen by the AP showed a fiery explosion around dawn.

Syrian state TV said the extremists crossed into Kobani from Turkey, but Kurtulmus dismissed such allegations as untrue, according to Turkey's Anadolu news agency.

IS fighters entered the village of Barkh Botan near

Kobani, opening fire on civilians and killing 20 people, the Observatory said. Syria's state news agency SANA said 22 people were killed, including women and children.

The differing casualty figures from Turkish, Kurdish and Syrian sources could not be reconciled in the immediate aftermath of the violence.

Natasha Underhill, an expert on Middle East terrorism from Britain's Nottingham Trent University, said the re-entry of Islamic State forces in Kobani “comes as a warning to the strength of the group.”

What some may consider a victory over IS in Kobani could actually be an effort by the group to withdraw and develop a different strategy, she added. □

Pakistan rejects Afghan allegations about attack

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan “strongly rejects” accusations by Afghanistan's spy agency that a Pakistani intelligence officer helped orchestrate an attack on the Afghan parliament earlier this week. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement Thursday that the allegations aim to “disrupt the improving relations

between the two brotherly nations.” It condemned “terrorism in all its forms” and said it would continue to work with Kabul to combat it. Hassib Sediqqi, the spokesman for Afghan intelligence services, said Wednesday that an officer in Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence helped the

Haqqani network carry out Monday's attack, which killed two people and wounded more than 30. Relations between the two countries have improved in recent months following years of tensions, during which each had accused the other of supporting militants operating along their porous border. □

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Mother, baby rescued 4 days after Colombia crash

LIBARDO CARDONA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A Colombian woman who survived a plane crash with her months-old baby, drinking coconut water

but rescuers said Thursday that a heavy load of fresh fish in the cabin absorbed much of the crash impact, allowing Murillo and her son to survive against the odds.

ing unsuccessfully to trap rodents for food, Acisclo Renteria, the Red Cross volunteer who eventually found her on Wednesday told The Associated Press by phone from Quibdo.

She was later taken to a hospital in Medellin for further treatment.

Renteria said the search party was aided by a trail of clues left by Murillo, including a flip-flop sandal, her son's birth certificate, a cellphone and the remains of coconuts. A helicopter was also sent out with a loudspeaker urging the woman to return to the crash site.

But after two more days rescuers began to lose hope. Then Renteria said he spotted a swarm of flies buzzing over something on the ground. As he approached, Murillo began to shout for help and attempted to get to her feet in a state of near-starvation and apparent shock, he said.

"I told her: 'Mama, Mama, be calm. The Colombian Red Cross is here to rescue you,'" Renteria said.

During the next four hours, while waiting for a helicopter to arrive, rescuers administered Murillo first aid and fed her water and crackers by hand. Renteria said he stayed with the baby, cleaning its mouth of debris and keeping it snug against his overalls.

He said a grateful Murillo asked him to be the boy's godfather. □



Air force members and medical staff move Maria Nelly Murillo from a plane to a stretcher as she arrives to Medellin, Colombia, Thursday, June 25, 2015. Rescuers reached Murillo and her 1-year-old son after they survived a June 20 plane crash in the jungle, shortly after taking off in a small plane from Quibdo. The pilot was killed, and Murillo suffered some injuries and burns, but her baby was unhurt.
(AP Photo/Luis Benavides)

to stay alive, was rescued after four days lost in the jungle.

Maria Nelly Murillo and her child were aboard a twin-engine Cessna that crashed Saturday in a remote area of western Colombia shortly after taking off from the city of Quibdo. The crash killed the pilot,

She forced open the cabin door and climbed a hill to get away from the aircraft, which she feared might explode, the air force reported.

Apparently disoriented, she wandered in the jungle carrying her child, surviving on the watery liquid inside unripe coconuts and try-

Murillo said she and her son also drank rainwater.

"When it rained, I'd get up and gather water from the few leaves that had water on them and I'd drink it with the boy," Murillo, her voice weak and face covered in bandages, told local media in brief remarks from a hospital bed in Quibdo.

Noriega asks for Panama's forgiveness in interview

JUAN ZAMORANO
JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Former dictator Manuel Noriega broke a long silence to ask his compatriots on Wednesday to forgive actions by his military regime that culminated in the 1989 U.S. invasion.

Noriega began the brief jailhouse interview with local network Telemetro reading a handwritten statement in which he said his apology came after days of reflection with his family and members of the church.

He said he wasn't motivated by any personal interest but a sincere desire to bring closure to the military era, a dark chapter in Pan-

ama's history that left the country in ruin and hundreds dead.

"Before the altar of my conscience I've come to express myself in the spirit of forgiveness," Noriega said, his hand shaking but otherwise appearing in good health for his 81 years.

The onetime CIA informant hadn't spoken to a journalist since a 1996 interview with CNN's Larry King from a Miami federal prison, where following his capture by American troops he was sent for being a major conduit for Colombian cocaine traffickers.

After completing his sentence in the U.S., Noriega was extradited to France to serve time for money laundering. He returned to

Panama in 2011 to complete a 60-year sentence for murder, corruption and embezzlement during the military's three-decade rule.

Referring to himself as the "last general of the military era," Noriega apologized to those "offended, affected, injured or humiliated" by his own actions or those of his superiors and subordinates during the regime that he began serving as a low-ranking officer in the 1960s.

He didn't comment on any specific abuses and refused to take the bait when pressed about whether his act of contrition involved clarifying the still murky circumstances that led to the disappearance and mur-

der of two prominent opponents.

Saying he was "totally at peace" with himself, Noriega said he didn't want to distract from the "solemnity" of his statement.

Reaction among Panamanians was mixed.

Many on social media saw the apology as a surprising capitulation from the famously stubborn strongman, who lost his apparent interest and power to influence Panamanian politics years ago.

But others judged it as a sly move to pave the way for a presidential pardon or for him to finish his sentence under house arrest, something his lawyers have been seeking on medical grounds for years. □

Pope Francis to stay away from Argentina while on tour in July

D. REY,
P. PRENGAMAN
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Pope Francis' homeland of Argentina is not on the itinerary for his South American tour in July.

The pontiff hasn't been back since he became pope more than two years ago, and the Vatican says he doesn't want to influence October's presidential election by visiting now. Francis has complained in recent months that he has felt "used" by Argentine politicians who take their picture with him in Rome.

Instead, the pontiff will tour Ecuador and two countries that border Argentina: Bolivia and Paraguay.

Although he will stay away, Francis nevertheless intensely follows what happens where he was born and spent most of his life before becoming world leader of the Roman Catholic Church, according to local journalists who have covered him for years, friends in the country and Vatican officials.

"This is a pope who is very interested in politics and has considerable political sensibility," said Mariano De Vedia, political editor for the Argentine newspaper La Nacion and author of "In the Name of the Father," a book that examines Francis' rocky relationship with President Cristina Fernandez and her predecessor and late husband, Nestor Kirchner.

Much of what Francis says and does has an impact in Argentina, a majority Catholic nation of 41 million people where the church wields great influence.

He has promised to open church files from Argentina's 1976-1983 military dictatorship — a potential Pandora's box that could spark more lawsuits and arrests related to the estimated 30,000 people killed or disappeared during the "dirty war." Francis made headlines early this year by lamenting that a growing drug trade in Argentina could lead to a "Mexicanization" of the country. □



Everyone had a blast:

Happy Hour a Hit for Staff and Occupants of San Pedro!



ORANJESTAD - Everyone had a blast during a fun Happy Hour for the occupants of the San Pedro Paviljoen, staffers, management and board members of the Stichting Algemene Bejaardenzorg Aruba (SABA) last Friday afternoon.

The Happy Hour was a first activity of a newly founded foundation, named Brasa Habri, which aims to make life a bit more fun for Aruba's elderly and needy. Most occupants of San Pedro greatly enjoyed the plentiful drinks and snacks, which included favorites like stuffed eggs, tuna puffs and cheese balls. Staffers liked the Happy Hour as well, as it doubled as a good start of the weekend.

Singer Indra Figaroa had a most unusual afternoon: she was singing Spanish, English and Aruban evergreens when she got assistance from an elderly gentleman. He knew all the words and sang along beautifully, receiving much applause: he was the star of the show. But Indra had



to wipe away a few tears when she learned that this gentleman had not spoken a word for a long time: her music had triggered a source of astounding talent that not many people knew about. How extraordinary and wonderful. This was the first of a number of planned activities for the elderly of Aruba, who are wheelchair-bound or who need assistance to move about. They include a walking trip through downtown Oranjestad, swimming and much more. As volunteers are needed



to be able to cheer up as many people as possible, please sign up and help. You can send a mail to

bong@setarnet.aw with your name and phone number and we shall contact you. □



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Shawn, Dave and Teresa are having a ball at Fishes & More

ORANJESTAD - Enjoying their holiday to the max are Shawn Porter and Dave and Teresa Gable. They are from Simpsonville, Indianapolis. Their trip to Aruba is to celebrate Shawn's 50th birthday and the 34th wedding anniversary, so reasons enough for a holiday filled with fun in the sun.

Shawn, Dave and Teresa are no newcomers to the island: they come here often.

They heard about Fishes & More Restaurant from their concierge at the Marriott Resort and went there to try the red snapper filet. They loved it and will surely be back!

Happy birthday and a happy anniversary! □



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What's so special about Sidebar, you might ask? Well, for starters, the restaurant menu offers a great variety. Breakfast will wake you up, lunch will make you sparkle with its specials. By the time dinner comes along you will be ready for an extraordinary appetizer, a superb wrap, a spectacular gourmet burger, a freshly caught local fish, a great salad or a tender steak. The menu covers all the bases as well as the outfield, with the stress on quality. Sidebar's chef is a miracle working in the creativity department, so you can always ask him to surprise you with his specials. Please note the unusual presentation of the dishes you ordered: the wizard is at work.

Sidebar is the newest restaurant on Aruba, and oh boy, it is a beauty! Unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome all of you.



Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere. Sidebar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy – the party at Sidebar starts at 8 am and goes on until midnight.

At Sidebar you can sit in a booth, on a lounge chair, on a bar stool or stand at a cocktail table. Side Bar is all about options, so go and check it out on the far end corner of the Renaissance Marketplace.

Enjoy this new, hot, exciting and very, very tasty restaurant to the fullest!

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Representing 45 Consecutive Years of Visiting The Island: Aruba Tourism Authority Presents Commemorative Emerald Coin and Emerald Certificate to Linda and Kenneth Meltzer



ORANJESTAD – Recently the Meltzer family was awarded with a much deserved Emerald Coin, representing and honoring

their 45 consecutive years of visiting the island. During a special reception held for this commemorative event, Mr. Kenneth

Meltzer and his wife Mrs. Linda Meltzer were honored with the special Emerald coin accompanied with the title of loyal Em-

erald Ambassadors which certificate was presented to them by Mrs. Darline de Cuba, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority. Mr. and Mrs. Meltzer are from Freehold, New Jersey and their main reason for returning year after year was not only because they felt Aruba is their home away from home, but also due to the great weather and the friendly Aruban hospitality. The symbolic honorary title is presented to the family on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture Mr. O. Oduber as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 35-or-more consecutive years. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Meltzer, you truly make a difference in the Aruban Community. □



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Club di Movimiento Hosting Recital "Tales from Aruba"

NOORD - Club di Movimiento Dance school, situated in Noord under the direction of Samanta Westera Juppa is celebrating 18 years of existence. The 18th anniversary will be celebrated at Cas di Cultura on Friday June 26th and Saturday June 27th at 7:30pm, and Sunday June 28th at 4:00pm. Tales from Aruba first act will present dance numbers with Antillean/Aruban classical, contemporary and popular music. The audience will enjoy students from Ballet-Pointe, Classical Ballet, Latin, Tap and Acrobatics performing most popular Aruba's animals, tales, dances and songs. There will be a special participation from Coro Tutti Frutti from Miss Maybeline Arends, Marvin Rouse professional dancer at Occidental Grand Hotel and Leader Character Artist Ferdinand Franca. The second act will present a diversity of Jazz, Contemporary - Modern, Contemporary on pointes, Afro Modern, Tap, Street dance, Latin, Acrobatics and Lyrical. For the second act there will be a special participation of Elvyz Sanchez, Hip hop professional dancer



and CDM pre-professional dance company, Youth Ballet Companionship. Club di Movimiento docents are Elvys Sanchez, Mayra Stroecken, Vivian Maduro, Samanta Westera Juppa and Invited guest teacher for acrobatics Mr. Juan Carlos Iglesias. CDM team and students are inviting the Aruban community to join "Tales from Aruba" for a pleasant Aruban Ballet evening and afternoon. On behalf of the students of Club di Movimiento, we thank you! □



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Karl-Anthony Towns, right, poses for a photo with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver after being announced as the top pick during the NBA basketball draft by the Minnesota Timberwolves, Thursday, June 25, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

Timberwolves select Towns with No. 1 pick in NBA draft

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — NEW YORK (AP) — The Minnesota

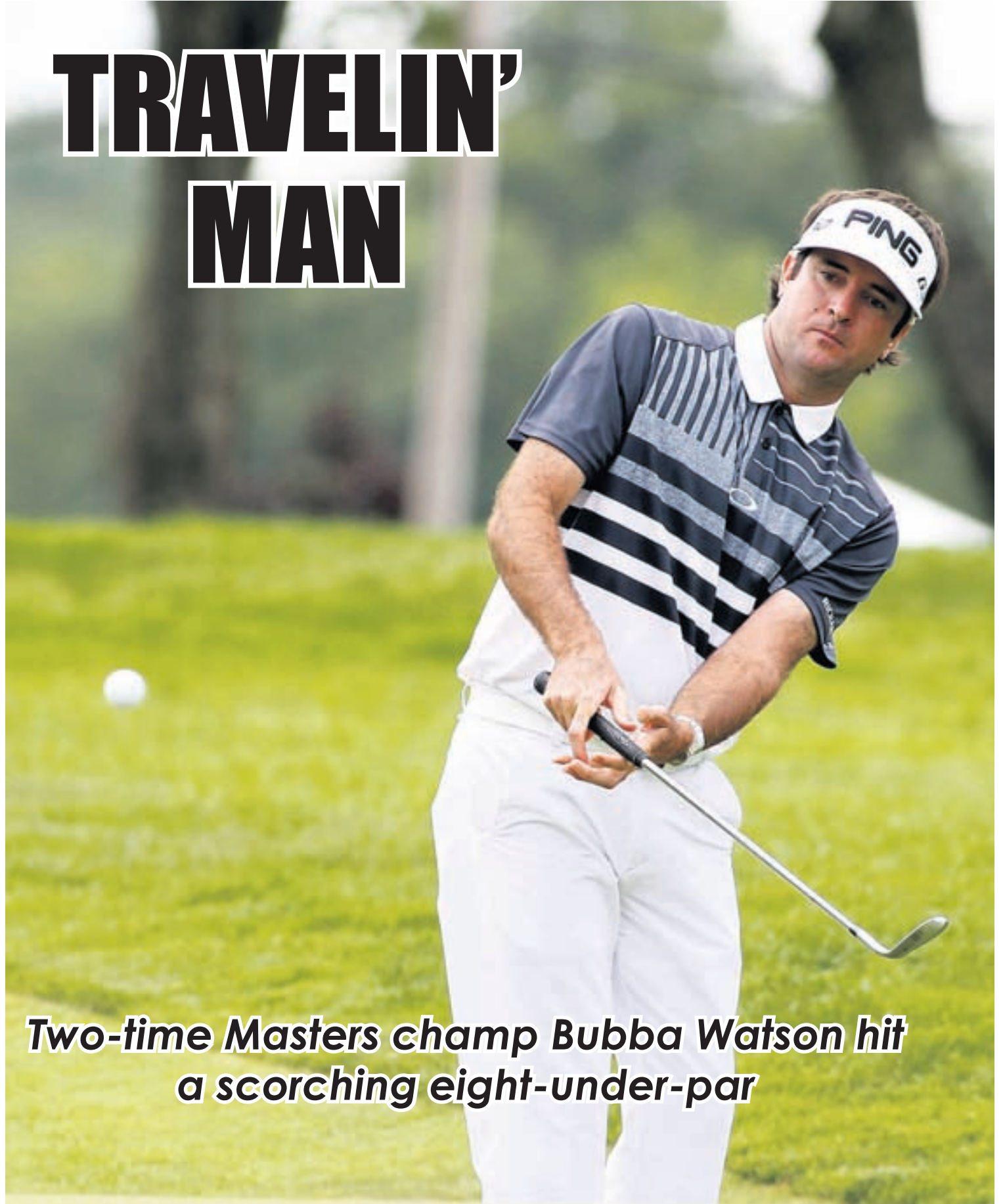
Timberwolves selected Kentucky's Karl-Anthony Towns with the first pick in the NBA draft on Thursday night, the first of three straight freshmen chosen.

The Timberwolves went for the center in their first time owning the No. 1 pick. They can add him to a young squad featuring Rookie of the Year Andrew Wiggins, who was picked first last year by Cleveland and later dealt to Minnesota in the Kevin Love trade.

The Los Angeles Lakers then took guard D'Angelo Russell of Ohio State, who was wearing a red jacket, bowtie and shoes that matched the Buckeyes' school colors. The 6-foot-11 Towns averaged 10.3 points and 6.7 rebounds in just 21 minutes per game, as Kentucky used a platoon system in winning its first 38 games and reaching the Final Four.

Continued on page 22

TRAVELIN' MAN



Two-time Masters champ Bubba Watson hit a scorching eight-under-par

Bubba Watson chips to the ninth green during the first round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament, Thursday, June 25, 2015, in Cromwell, Conn. Watson made a birdie on the hole.

Associated Press
Page 18

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Bubba Watson shoots 62 to take Travelers Championship lead

PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP) —

Bubba Watson made himself right at home in the Travelers Championship — again.

Watson shot an 8-under 62 on Thursday to take a two-stroke lead in the event he won in 2010 for his first PGA Tour title. He has finished in the top 20 five times in eight previous starts at TPC River Highlands.

It was the two-time Masters champion's lowest round in the event.

"It's special," Watson said about the tournament. "It was my first win and it's the same time that I announced to the world that my dad was passing with cancer. So, special in different ways."

New England native Keegan Bradley was tied for second with Jason Gore, Seung-Yul Noh, Brian Stuard and Harris English, who shot a 30 on the back nine. Eight players shot 65, and 12 more opened at 66. Ninety-three players were under par in the first round. "Coming off a U.S. Open, this golf course seems like it's gettable, and we all feel that way," Watson said. "So the guys that played in the U.S. Open maybe feel better about their game when they get here."

Watson, playing late in the day, had four birdies on his final five holes. The two-time Masters champion just missed an eagle on the par-4 18th hole, hitting a 139-yard second shot that bounced into the flagstick and rolled 4 inches past the cup.

His only glitch during that stretch was bogey on the par-3 16th, where he overshot the green, and chipped his second shot



Bubba Watson hits his tee shot on the ninth hole during the first round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament, Thursday, June 25, 2015, in Cromwell, Conn.

past the hole and into the fringe.

He is trying to become the fifth golfer to win this tournament since 2000 after leading or being tied for the lead going into the second round.

"I just kept grinding it out," he said. "Whatever shot was called for, I tried to hit it and somehow today, I hit it good." Bradley, put up an early 64, shooting a 31 on his front nine. The 29-year-old, who was born in Vermont, is playing his fifth Travelers Championship, which he considers a home tournament. His best finish has been 18th.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself in every tournament, but this one especially just

because I've got a lot of people here. I know a lot of the fans are rooting for me. I can feel it."

English, who did not play in the U.S. Open, had just 22 putts. "You can hit a lot of good wedge shots to 8, 10, 12 feet," he said. "If you don't make them, it kind of hurts, it stops the momentum. But I feel like I made some of those and kept it going." Ernie Els is making his first appearance in Connecticut since 2002 and was among those at 66. He said he normally heads to Europe after the U.S. Open to prepare for the British Open, but decided to try to pick up a few more FedEx points this year.

"This is quite close to Eu-

rope," he said. "It's only 5 1/2 hours away."

Argentina's Andres Romero won a Rolex watch during his round of 69 when he aced the 177-yard par-3 16th hole. Romero said he grabbed his 7-iron and decided to go for the pin after his caddie translated a sign about the hole-in-one prize next to the tee box.

"I got the shot off and when it headed toward the hole and disappeared, I couldn't believe it," he said through a translator.

It was the third hole-in-one of the Romero's career, and he said now owns seven Rolex's.

Martin Laird may have had the shot of the round when he holed out from 140 yards

for an eagle on the par-4 17th hole, watching as ball cleared the water and the pin before rolling back into the cup.

As many as nine spots for the British Open are available this week.

The leading five players, not already exempt, from the top 20 in the FedEx Cup will be part of the field at St. Andrews next month.

In addition, the leading four players who finish in the top 12 at TPC River Highlands also will get spots. The Travelers is the first of three PGA Tour events where top finishers can get into St. Andrews. There are four spots available at The Greenbrier Classic, and one at the John Deere Classic. □

Associated Press

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Agent: Bolt withdraws from 100 at Jamaica trials to train on

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Usain Bolt has been removed from the list of entries for the 100 meters at the Jamaica trials, apparently the latest setback for the world record-holder.

Jamaican athletics officials said on Thursday that Bolt was expected to compete in the 100 in Kingston to sharpen his sprinting form against speedsters such as Asafa Powell and Yohan Blake. Bolt was already assured of a spot in the world championships in August in Beijing to defend his 100 and 200 titles.

But Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association officials said Bolt's name was withdrawn late Wednesday, without elaborating. The heats were on Thursday, and the 100 final is scheduled for Friday.

However, Bolt's agent, Ricky Simms, said his client was never "confirmed" to



Jamaican sprinter and world record holder Usain Bolt wins the men's 200 meters at the Adidas Grand Prix, Saturday, June 13, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

run at the Jamaica trials, and put his name in only "to have the option" to compete against his countrymen. In an email on

Thursday, Simms said Bolt's coach planned to make a decision on Wednesday "if he needed the race or if he preferred him to

train ahead" of Diamond League meets in July in Paris and Lausanne, Switzerland. Coach Glen Mills did not respond to calls

seeking clarification on Thursday.

Warren Blake, the head of the JAAA, said Mills did not provide any specific reason for removing Bolt's name from the trials, at least that he was aware of. Bolt was slowed by injuries last year, and his performances have been unremarkable so far this season. This month, at the Diamond League meet in New York, Bolt described his 200 time of 20.29, more than a second off his world record, as the worst of his career.

He has looked beatable before and then delivered spectacularly when the stakes are highest. In New York, he said, "when it comes to the championship, everything always comes together for me."

At the worlds, the six-time Olympic champion is due to face American Justin Gatlin, who ran a 9.74 in the 100 this season. □

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AL Capsules

Estrada in command as Blue Jays edge Rays in 12

BLUE JAYS 1, RAYS 0, 12 INNINGS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)

— Marco Estrada lost his bid for a perfect game on Logan Forsythe's infield single with one out in the eighth inning, but Chris Colabello homered in the 12th to lift Toronto over Tampa Bay.

Forsythe barely beat out a slow chopper to third that Josh Donaldson fielded barehanded. Donaldson's throw to first was just a hair too late.

Toronto challenged the safe call by umpire Joe West, which was confirmed after a 40-second replay review.

Tampa Bay's only other hit off Estrada was Kevin Kiermaier's two-out double in

the ninth that chased the right-hander.

Estrada also carried a no-hit bid into the eighth inning of his previous start Friday against Baltimore. This time, he struck out 10 and threw a career-high 129 pitches.

Colabello connected for a one-out shot to center off Brandon Gomes (1-3). Brett Cecil (2-4) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the 11th, and Steve Delabar got three outs for his first save of the season.

ROYALS 8, MARINERS 2

SEATTLE (AP) — Mike Moustakas hit a two-run home run and Omar Infante had a three-run double in a seven-run fourth inning and Kansas City beat Seattle.

Alcides Escobar opened the fourth with a single to right off Roenis Elias (4-5), who had retired the first nine batters. Moustakas followed with his seventh homer over the right-field wall.

The Royals would score five more, all with two outs. Infante unloaded the bases with his double to left, then Jarrod Dyson and Escobar each followed with left-field RBI doubles.

Ryan Madson (1-1) worked 1-plus inning of hitless relief for the win.

YANKEES 10, PHILLIES 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Ivan Nova stifled the Phillies on three hits over 6 2-3 scoreless innings in his first major league appearance in 14



Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Marco Estrada delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, June 24, 2015, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

months, leading New York over Philadelphia and Cole Hamels.

Nova returned to the mound for the first time since April 19, 2014. The right-hander had Tommy John surgery 10 days later and the Yankees, seeking to stabilize an erratic rotation, activated him after three minor league rehab outings.

With a fastball that reached 95 mph, Nova (1-0) walked two and struck out one. He waved his cap as he walked off to a standing ovation from the crowd of 45,877. Hamels (5-6), who missed his previous turn because of a strained right hamstring, was hurt by his defense. He allowed five runs, eight hits and three

walks in five innings.

Alex Rodriguez drove in two runs for the Yankees, and Mark Teixeira had three hits and two RBIs after missing two games with a stiff neck.

ANGELS 2, ASTROS 1, 13 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Taylor Featherston poked an RBI single over first base with two outs in the 13th inning to give Los Angeles a victory Houston. Surprise starter Andrew Heaney pitched well in his Angels debut, locking up with Lance McCullers in a matchup of touted young arms selected in the first round of the 2012 draft.

Los Angeles took two of three in the series to climb within 4 1/2 games of the AL West leaders. □

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NL Capsules

Heyward and Wong homer, Cardinals top Marlins 6-1

MIAMI (AP) — Jason Heyward homered for the third consecutive game, Kolten Wong added a two-run shot and the St. Louis Cardinals topped the Miami Marlins 6-1 on Wednesday night.

Heyward hit a three-run homer, his ninth of the season, in the seventh to blow the game open. The Cardinals had just one hit in the first six innings against Miami starter Mat Latos (2-5), that hit being Wong's ninth home run in the third.

Jaime Garcia (3-3) allowed one run in seven innings for the Cardinals, lowering his ERA to 1.69. Garcia singled and eventually scored in the eighth, but grimaced and began to limp shortly before crossing the plate. He came out of the game. Giancarlo Stanton had three hits, including hit his ML-leading 27th home run for the Marlins.

GIANTS 6, PADRES 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Buster Posey hit his second grand slam in five games and San Francisco beat San Diego.

Posey hit his 11th home run of the season on a 2-2 pitch from San Diego starter Ian Kennedy (4-6) with two outs in the third inning. That came two batters after Joe Panik's sacrifice fly drove in Andrew Susac.

It's Posey's fourth career grand slam. The Giants' All-Star catcher also hit one against the Los Angeles Dodgers on June 19.

Ryan Vogelsong pitched six scoreless innings for his second straight win. Vogelsong (6-5) gave up five hits, struck out four and walked two while helping San Francisco to its majors-leading 12th shutout.

San Diego's Matt Kemp went 0 for 4 with one strikeout while batting leadoff for the first time since 2010.

DODGERS 5, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Justin Turner and Adrian Gonzalez homered, and Los Angeles snapped Chicago's four-game win streak.

Gonzalez connected for a leadoff drive in the second

and Turner belted a three-run shot in the third, helping Los Angeles bounce back after it scored just two runs in the first two games of the four-game series. Joc Pederson added an RBI single in the eighth for the NL West leaders, who had lost four of five overall.

J.P. Howell (3-1) replaced Mike Bolsinger with two out in the fifth and pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win. Kenley Jansen got three outs for his 10th save in 11 chances.

Addison Russell had two hits and drove in a run for Chicago, which had won five of seven. The Cubs finished with nine hits, but left eight runners on base.

Kyle Hendricks (2-4) lasted just five innings for Chicago. He hasn't recorded an out in the sixth in any of his last four starts.

BREWERS 4, METS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Jimmy Nelson allowed two hits in eight strong innings, Scooter Gennett hit a home run and Milwaukee extended New York's losing streak to a season-high seven games.

The Brewers scratched out four runs on 10 hits in six innings off Mets starter Bartolo Colon (9-6) as New York (36-37) slipped below .500 for the first time since a 2-3 record on April 11.

Nelson (4-8) allowed one run, Curtis Granderson's 11th home run, and two hits. He struck out five and walked one sending the Mets to their longest skid since April 2011. Johnny Monell singled leading off the third for the first hit in the game off the Brewers' big right-hander.

Scooter Gennett hit a solo home run off Colon in the sixth. Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his 15th save.

REDS 5, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Marlon Byrd hit a two-run homer during Cincinnati's four-run first inning, and the Reds continued their mastery of Pittsburgh's Gerrit Cole.

The Reds have won — and scored at least three runs — in each of the three games

this season it has faced Cole (11-3). The Pirates are 11-1 when Cole starts against any other team, and he hasn't allowed more than two runs in any of his 12 starts when he hasn't faced Cincinnati.

Mike Leake (5-4), the Reds' starter each time they've beaten Cole, limited the Pirates to two runs and eight hits in seven innings to win his seventh consecutive decision against them.

Tucker Barnhart went 3 for 4 for Cincinnati, which has won five of its past seven.

Cole had allowed just three earned runs over four starts in 27 innings in June.

DIAMONBACKS 8, ROCKIES 7

DENVER (AP) — Pinch-hitter Aaron Hill hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly to cap a three-run rally in the ninth inning, lifting Arizona past Colorado in a game that began with a 46-minute rain delay.

Down 7-5 heading into the ninth, Arizona pulled within a run on Yasmany Tomas' RBI single, his career-high fourth hit of the game. After a bloop single by Jake Lamb loaded the bases, closer John Axford (1-1) fanned Chris Owings but then walked Jarrod Saltalamacchia, forcing home the tying run and blowing a save for the first time in 13 chances this season.

Hill, batting for reliever Daniel Hudson (2-2), then drove a fly ball to deep center, scoring Tomas from third. Brad Ziegler pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save.

NATIONALS 2, BRAVES 1, 11 INNINGS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ian Desmond hit a sacrifice fly with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 11th inning to lift Washington to a victory over Atlanta and its fifth straight win.

Bryce Harper started the winning rally with a double to right-center off Dana Eveland (0-1) and gave the crowd and the Nationals a scare when he came up limping badly at second. But after being checked out, he stayed in the game. □



St. Louis Cardinals' Jason Heyward hits a home run scoring Mark Reynolds and Jhonny Peralta during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Wednesday, June 24, 2015, in Mia
Associated Press

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MON-THURS 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35
FRI 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05
SAT 1:50 | 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35

ON TWO SCREENS

MARK WAHLBERG | SETH MACFARLAN

BIG GAME

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MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:15 | 9:25
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INSIDE OUT

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

3D VERSION

MON-THURS 4:15 | 6:25 | 8:35
FRI 4:15 | 6:25 | 8:35 | 10:45
SAT 2:05 | 4:15 | 6:25 | 8:35 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:15 | 6:25 | 8:35

2D VERSION

MON-THURS 5:20 | 7:30
FRI 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40
SAT 3:10 | 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40
SUN & HOL 3:10 | 5:20 | 7:30

ON TWO SCREENS

AMY POEHLER | BILL HADER

JURASSIC WORLD

3D VERSION

MON-THURS 3:55 | 6:25 | 9:10
FRI 3:55 | 6:25 | 9:10 | 11:55
SAT 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10

2D VERSION

MON-THURS 5:35 | 8:20
FRI 5:35 | 8:20 | 11:05
SAT 2:50 | 5:35 | 8:20 | 11:05
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:35 | 8:20

SPY

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 6:45
FRI 6:45
SAT 2:00 | 6:45
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 6:45

JUDE LAW | ROSE BYRNE

INSIDIOUS 3

CHAPTER

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 4:30 | 9:20
FRI 4:30 | 9:20 | 11:35
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MLS Roundup

Keane leads Galaxy to 5-0 rout of Portland

The Associated Press

CARSON, California (AP)

— Los Angeles' Robbie Keane converted a penalty and set up two others as the Galaxy beat Portland 5-0 on Wednesday, scoring five goals for the second straight match.

The teams went into the game level on points, and Portland on a four-game winning run, but the Timbers were no match for the Galaxy, who moved within a point of the Western Conference lead.

Sebastian Lletget scored for the third straight match, putting the Galaxy ahead in the 13th minute. Keane converted in the 18th minute, and Robbie Rogers scored his first MLS goal since 2011 off a pass from Keane in the 33rd.

Juninho scored in the 72nd off another Keane assist and Jose Villarreal added the final goal in the 87th minute.

Portland's Liam Ridgewell was given a red card in the 78th.

CHICAGO 0, D.C. UNITED 1

Conor Doyle scored in the 73rd minute to give D.C. United victory at Chicago. Doyle pounced upon a rebound off a defender and fired a strike from outside the 18-yard box which went in off the underside of the bar.

United padded their lead in the Eastern Conference



Los Angeles Galaxy forward Robbie Keane, right, scores on a penalty kick against Portland Timbers goalkeeper Adam Kwarasey, center, with midfielder Diego Chara (21) watching during the first half of an MLS soccer game in Carson, Calif., Wednesday, June 24, 2015.

Associated Press

to 10 points over New England while Chicago has dropped four straight.

PHILADELPHIA 1, SEATTLE 0

Philadelphia's C.J. Sapong scored his fifth goal in six games to help the hosts beat Seattle.

Sapong headed in Sheanon Williams' perfectly chipped cross in the 69th minute.

Philadelphia had a goal disallowed for a foul on the goalkeeper in the 27th minute and in the 30th, Maurice Edu's penalty was blocked by Sounders goalkeeper Stefan Frei.

Seattle struggled without injured Obafemi Martins and

suspended Clint Dempsey, not getting a shot on target until the 83rd and not winning a corner until the 87th.

COLUMBUS 2, NEW ENGLAND 1

Columbus' Kei Kamara boosted his lead in the scoring charts with two goals to beat New England, snapping a six-game winless streak.

Columbus partially avenged last season's conference semifinal loss to the Revolution, which has lost nine of its past ten road games.

New England's Lee Nguyen scored after just 35 seconds, drilling in a shot

from the top of the 18-yard box. The Crew answered in the fourth minute when a header hit the crossbar and bounced to Kamara who fired into the back of the net.

Kamara scored the winner with his heel in the 50th minute for his 12th goal of the season.

NEW YORK 1, REAL SALT LAKE 0

New York's Mike Grella scored in the fourth minute and the Red Bulls beat nine-man Real Salt Lake to snap a run of four successive defeats.

Real Salt Lake lost two players to straight red cards in

a 15-minute span. Captain Javier Morales was sent off in the 40th minute for a tackle on Felipe that ended a counter-attack. Defender Demar Phillips was sent off in the 55th minute for a high tackle on Connor Lake.

TORONTO 3, MONTREAL 1

Toronto's Michael Bradley, Sebastian Giovinco and Jozy Altidore all scored in a victory over Canadian rival Montreal.

Ambroise Oyongo opened the scoring for the Impact in the 19th minute, but Bradley equalized in the 27th off a cross from Giovinco. Altidore made it 2-1 in the 56th and Giovinco converted a penalty in the 82nd.

ORLANDO CITY 2, COLORADO 0

Orlando City's Cyle Larin and Kaka scored second-half goals to beat Colorado in the teams' first MLS meeting.

Larin scored in the 62nd minute, streaking through the middle to punch the ball in from point-blank range off a cross from Carlos Rivas. Kaka added his eighth of the season 3 minutes later, firing across goal from the right to just inside the left post.

Orlando City stayed a point ahead of Toronto for third place in the Eastern Conference while the Rapids are winless in five games. □

NBA Draft

Continued from page 17

The New Jersey native said he had above 50 family and friends in attendance. "This is home to me," he said. "Been able to come here and have all my closest friends and love ones come out here. It's the most special moments in my life."

It was Kentucky's third No. 1 pick in the last six years, joining Anthony Davis in 2012 and John Wall in 2010. The Wildcats were hoping to have a record seven players picked and had their second player selected when Sacramento took



NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, left, talks with Emmanuel Mudiay, center, Karl-Anthony Towns, back center, and Kelly Oubre Jr., right, before the NBA basketball draft, Thursday, June 25, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

center Willie Cauley-Stein with the sixth pick.

It was the sixth straight year a freshman was the No. 1

pick. Russell also played just one year in college.

For weeks, Towns and Duke's Jahlil Okafor had been considered the top two selections. But the Lakers instead decided on backcourt help with a player who can step right in and play alongside Kobe Bryant in what could be the superstar's final season.

"Kobe's a great dude," Russell said. "Not knowing how much he has left in the tank is the scary thing. I'm really looking forward to him taking me under his wing if possible and feed me the most knowledge he can and use that as fire against my opponents." Okafor fell to the Philadel-

phia 76ers at No. 3, becoming the 19th lottery selection and 29th first-round pick — most in NCAA history — under coach Mike Krzyzewski.

The Knicks ended the run of one-and-dones when they took Latvian forward Kristaps Porzingis with the No. 4 pick. The 19-year-old forward had been surging up draft boards but Knicks fans who filled parts of Barclays Center in Brooklyn wanted no part of him, booing loud and long after his name was called by Commissioner Adam Silver.

Another international player followed, as Orlando took Croatian Mario Hezonja at No. 5. □



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Review: Apple has best smartwatch, but rivals have strengths

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As much as I wish the Apple Watch could do more, I find it the best smartwatch available, given its polished design and wide range of apps. But there may be reasons to consider something else. For one thing, Apple Watch requires an iPhone. Pebble Time, in particular, works with both iPhones and Android devices and excels at battery life. But it falls short elsewhere. Whether you need a smartwatch at all is another matter. Many people are happy having one, but others won't need one yet. If you need to stay connected continually and find that pulling out a phone is inconvenient, you might be in the market for a smartwatch. It will give you regular updates, replicating notifications on your phone. You'll also get apps like navigation and fitness. Here's a look at some of the alternatives to Apple Watch and how they compare:

— This product image provided by Pebble shows the new Pebble Time smartwatch. Associated Press

PEBBLE TIME (\$199; iOS, Android)



The original Pebble, the product of a public fundraising campaign through Kickstarter, reigned as a leading smartwatch until Samsung, Google and Apple came along. Orders began this week for a new model, Pebble Time. Apps offer business listings from Yelp, playback control for Pandora radio and sports scores from ESPN. But the app selection is short of what you get with Apple Watch or watches that run Google's Android Wear system. For instance, the most popular navigation app, MapsGPS, feels rudimentary. What's good: I can go about five days between charges, while rivals smartwatches max out at a day or two (Apple Watch is officially at 18 hours, though I typically get several hours more). In addition, the display is always on, so you can use a watch as, well, a watch all day. With some smartwatches, the screen goes dark to save battery.



Compromises: Pebble Time achieves amazing battery life by using a paper-like display that makes graphics and text look dull and fuzzy, as though generated by a dot-matrix printer from the 1980s. On a pedometer app, I couldn't tell whether I ran 6,350 or 8,350

steps. Unlike most other smartwatches, Pebble Time lacks a touch screen and a heart-rate monitor. Outside parties can make watch bands with heart rate and other sensors, but nothing's available yet. The bottom line: The no-frills smartwatch comes across as a toy, but it's also much cheaper than a \$349-and-up Apple Watch. Pebble's silicone band feels flimsy, though you can buy better ones from outside parties. Pebble Time supports both iPhones and Android; some apps and features work with just one or the other.

— In this May 28, 2015 photo, an Android Wear smartwatch is on display at Google I/O 2015 in San Francisco. Associated Press

ANDROID WEAR (\$200 to \$350, depending on the model; Android only)

Sony's \$250 SmartWatch 3 (though it's also rectangular). There are seven models so far, with more to come. Older models have steep discounts. What's good: Android Wear puts the "smart" in smartwatches by anticipating your needs — weather, travel times and appointment reminders, based on what Google learns about you. Creepy, but useful — at least during the occasional times when Google anticipates correctly. Compromises: Android Wear is highly dependent on voice commands. I get self-conscious speaking to a watch in public, and it doesn't work well in noisy environments. Apple Watch does require voice for extensive message replies, but there's a lot you can do through its touch screen and dial. A recent Android update makes it easier to launch apps and reach frequent contacts using the touch screen, but with more scrolling and tapping compared with Apple Watch. The bottom line: It's getting there. The app store and user interface for the year-old Android Wear are just starting to catch up to what Apple Watch had in its first week.

— In this Sept. 3, 2014 file photo, a visitor tabs on the display of a Samsung Gear S smartwatch at the IFA, one of the world's largest trade fairs for consumer electronics and electrical home appliances, in Berlin. Associated Press

SAMSUNG GEAR S (\$300 to \$384, plus \$5 or \$10 monthly service fee, depending on carrier; Android phones

from Samsung only)



Samsung's latest smartwatch has a slick user interface and a vivid, curved screen. It's also huge. What's good: Gear S stands out in having its own cellular connectivity, so you can do more when you leave your phone at home. It has built-in GPS, too, which makes tracking runs and bike rides more accurate. (Android Wear just started letting users get notifications over known Wi-Fi networks, but it's not as ubiquitous as cellular. Apple Watch also uses Wi-Fi, but only when it's on the same network as the phone.)

Compromises: Samsung shuns Android Wear, so apps need to be designed specifically for the watch. Many developers haven't bothered. The bottom line: The Gear S is a third-generation smartwatch from Samsung. By now, I expect a robust app store. The hardware may be stunning, but that matters little without good apps to use it. □

Key Target merchandising, supply chain exec steps aside

A. D'INNOCENZIO
M. CHAPMAN
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Target's reinvention plan continues. In the latest move by new CEO Brian Cornell to reshape the retailer, the discounter said that its chief merchandising and supply chain officer is exiting her

post. The retailer said Thursday that Kathryn Tesija, who also served as executive vice president, will move temporarily to a strategic adviser role on July 6 and plans to leave the company in April 2016. The move signals how serious Cornell is in making the company more nimble

and reclaiming its position as a "cheap chic" retailer. Tesija, who joined the company in 1986, had been promoted to chief merchandising officer in 2008 and added the responsibility for the company's sourcing in 2012. "During Kathee's nearly 30-year career at Target, she

has earned a reputation as an outstanding merchant and business leader who has been instrumental in Target's growth and our recent efforts to regain our momentum," Cornell said in a statement. But Cornell said that over the past several months, he and Tesija had "many discussions

about the business and together have decided that it is the right time for her to transition to an advisory role." In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission Thursday, Target said that Tesija will continue to receive her current base salary through April 1, 2016. □

Stocks slip as investors balance Greece, consumer spending



Trader David O'Day, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks edged lower Thursday as talks over keeping Greece solvent stalled and got extended into the weekend. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks edged lower Thursday as talks over keeping Greece solvent stalled and got extended into the weekend. Health care stocks rose sharply after the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act's insurance subsidies.

The Dow Jones industrial

average lost 75.71 points, or 0.4 percent, to 17,890.36. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 6.27 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,102.31 and the Nasdaq composite fell 10.22 points, or 0.2 percent, to 5,112.19. Stocks had been flat to slightly higher the first half of the day. But that momentum was soon lost and Greece worries turned the

market lower in the early afternoon. The bitter standoff between Greece and its international creditors was extended into the weekend, days before Athens has to meet a crucial debt deadline which could decide whether it defaults on its debt and has to drop out of the euro. A key meeting of eurozone

finance ministers broke up Thursday without agreement on Greece's rescue package, intensifying doubts about whether Athens can make a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.8 billion) debt payment to the International Monetary Fund that is due Tuesday.

An agreement on a drastic Greek tax and austerity reform package is necessary for creditors to unfreeze 7.2 billion euros (8.1 billion dollars) in bailout money.

Greece has a small economy and its debt problems have been long known by investors. However, the possibilities of destabilizing the euro and the implications of a country defaulting on its debt have weighed on investors for months now.

"It's fair to say markets have been somewhat complacent about the risk related to Greece, and it's all coming to a head now," said Ben Mandel, a global strategist at JPMorgan Multi-Asset Solutions. "It could cause some volatility next week."

Health care stocks, especially hospital operators, rose sharply after the Supreme Court upheld the

nationwide tax subsidies under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. The ruling will preserve health insurance for millions of Americans who are not covered under state-owned exchanges. Humana rose 7 percent, HCA Holdings rose 9 percent, Tenet Healthcare rose 12 percent and Cigna rose 2 percent. U.S. government bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.40 percent from 2.37 percent the day before. In the energy markets, the price of oil fell on continuing concerns that high supplies of gasoline and diesel will keep a lid on crude demand. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 57 cents to close at \$59.70 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell 29 cents to close at \$63.20 in London. In other futures trading on the NYMEX, wholesale gasoline fell 1.9 cents to close at \$2.037 a gallon. Heating oil fell 1.4 cents to close at \$1.862 a gallon. Natural gas rose 9.1 cents to close at \$2.850 per 1,000 cubic feet. □

H&M sees Q2 revenue increase by 21 percent

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish budget fashion chain Hennes & Mauritz AB says its second-quarter revenue increased 21 percent to 45.9 billion kronor (\$5.6 billion), despite an unusually cold spring in many of its European markets.

The three-month net profit was at 6.5 billion kronor (\$788 million), up 11 percent from the same period a year earlier. CEO Karl-Jo-

han Persson said Thursday the Stockholm-based group continued its expansion. In the spring, H&M opened eight new online markets and still aims to open about 400 new stores by year's end. "In parallel with our online expansion, we are continuing to open stores at a fast pace," Persson said. He highlighted the opening of the group's first shop in Lima, Peru, and an H&M's

flagship store that opened on Herald Square in New York, which will be one of the group's largest stores in the U.S. Most new stores in 2015 are planned in China and the U.S.

Germany remains H&M's largest market, followed by the United States, Britain, China and Sweden.

The company's stock fell more than 7 percent to 332.6 kronor in morning trad-

ing in Stockholm. As of July, the group will roll out H&M Beauty with makeup, body and hair care in 900 stores in 40 markets and online. Persson said it was an "example of all the investments we are making in order to broaden H&M's product range even further." Persson cautioned that a number of factors, including uncertainties related to fashion, weather conditions and negative

macro-economic changes, may affect H&M's results and business.

Founded in 1947, H&M is known for its fashionable, low-price collections for mainstream consumers. It has more than 3,600 stores worldwide. Its brands also include higher-priced COS and urban fashion labels such as Monki, Weekday, Cheap Monday and & Other Stories. □

STREET BRIEFS

Molycorp files for Chapter 11 protection: AP

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, Colo. (AP) — Rare earth metals company Molycorp has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. President and CEO Geoff Bedford said Thursday that the filings are an important step in helping to restructure its \$1.7 billion debt with major creditors. The Greenwood Village, Colorado-based company has faced problems including falling prices for the metals it produces, difficulties in expanding a mine in California and cash shortfalls. Its shares have tumbled. The filings include Molycorp Inc. and its North American subsidiaries, as well as some non-operating subsidiaries outside North America. Operations outside North America, with the exception of non-operating companies in Luxembourg and Barbados, are excluded from the filings. □

General Mills to slash up to 725 positions

NEW YORK (AP) — General Mills expects to cut 675 to 725 jobs as it wrestles with sluggish sales. The maker of Cheerios, Yoplait and Progresso said Thursday that it will record pre-tax costs of about \$57 million to \$62 million, mostly for employee termination benefits. Along with other packaged food makers like Kellogg and Campbell Soup, General Mills Inc. has slashed costs to offset slowing sales growth. Net sales rose barely 1 percent last year and the Minneapolis company expects core sales to grow at a "low single-digit rate" this year. Big packaged food makers are facing changing tastes and smaller players that position themselves as more wholesome or fresh. General Mills said its current restructuring should be complete by early fiscal 2017, generating annual savings of about \$45 to \$50 million. □

To sway regulators, Charter pledges to play nice online

TALI ARBEL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP)

Charter is trying to convince the government that consumers will benefit if it is allowed to create a cable giant through its proposed \$67.1 billion acquisition of Time Warner Cable and Bright House.

It is seeking government approval after regulators' concerns led Comcast to scrap its \$45 billion bid for Time Warner Cable in April. Charter said Tuesday, in a filing with the Federal Communications Commission, that it will roll out faster Internet with no data caps for Time Warner Cable and Bright House customers, for less money than a comparable service. It is also pledging to continue its policy of not blocking or slowing traffic, or establishing paid fast lanes for some content.

The government's new "net neutrality" rules prohibit those practices, though Internet providers have sued to throw out the rules.

"It seems like they're taking a more customer-friendly tone here" than Comcast did, said Matt Wood, policy director at public-interest group Free Press.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler has said that the Stamford, Connecticut company needs to



This photo shows signage at an entrance to Charter Communications' headquarters in Town and Country, Mo. Charter is trying to convince the government that consumers will benefit if it is allowed to create a cable giant through its proposed \$67.1 billion acquisition of Time Warner Cable and Bright House. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

show how a more powerful Charter would benefit consumers.

With Time Warner Cable, Comcast would have served more than half of the country's high-speed Internet customers. Regulators feared that would give it the power to undermine online video rivals.

Charter has pointed out that its share of that high-speed Internet market would be smaller than that, at 30 percent. It would have 19.4 million Internet customers, fewer than the industry leader, Comcast, has now, and 17.3 million cable customers, less than

both Comcast and the combination of AT&T and DirecTV, if regulators approve that pending deal.

In another bid to assuage the FCC, Charter Communications Inc. also says it will submit disputes over commercial Internet traffic deals, called "interconnection," to the agency. The net neutrality rules give the FCC the power to hear disputes over these arrangements, which the industry doesn't like. Fights between companies and Internet providers over these deals can disrupt service for Internet users, like slowing streaming speeds

for Netflix.

Charter proposed that its net neutrality commitments last for three years and that they stay in effect even if a court overturned the government's new rules.

But Wood questioned why some of these benefits for consumers had to be tied to a merger, like why Time Warner Cable couldn't improve their customer service and Internet speeds without being bought, or why Charter couldn't submit interconnection disputes to the FCC without buying Time Warner Cable and Bright House. □

Tinder, Match.com looking for love on Wall Street

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP)

Match.com and Tinder are looking for a Wall Street hook-up as their parent group prepares to establish them as a separate, publicly traded company.

IAC/InteractiveCorp, which is controlled by billionaire Barry Diller, has approved a proposal for an initial public offering.

Diller said Thursday that it's "healthy" to give companies "independence from a mother church."

He laid the groundwork for the IPO two years ago when he formed the Match Group, which also

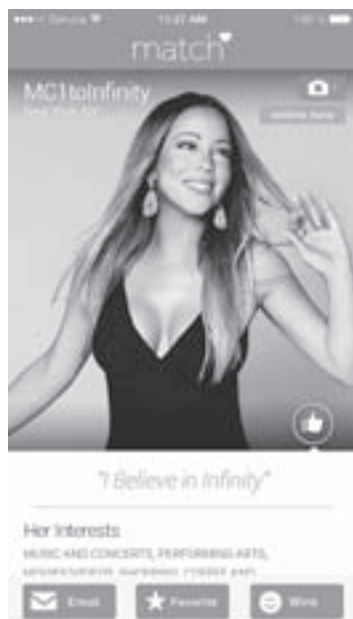
includes OKCupid, Chemistry.com and other dating sites and apps.

IAC said it expects the Match Group to issue less than 20 percent of its shares in the IPO. That means IAC will still be majority owned by its parent. The IPO is planned for the fourth quarter of this year. The Match Group had revenue of \$239.2 million in the first quarter of this year, an increase of 13 percent from a year earlier.

With the IPO, "Match will be able to unlock value, a topic that has been in the forefront with the datingbusiness for the last 2-3 years," said Cowen and

Co. analyst John Blackledge in a note to investors. He added that Match is a leader in the growing category and the IPO could help both it and IAC pursue new acquisitions, "nurture them over time and create further shareholder value." This, he noted, has been IAC's playbook for the past two decades. Separately, New York-based IAC also named Joey Levin as its CEO. IAC has not had a CEO since 2013.

IAC shares jumped \$3.54, or 4.6 percent, to \$80.80 in morning trading Thursday. Its shares are up 17 percent over the past year. □



This Match.com image shows the profile page for singer Mariah Carey.

(Match.com via AP)

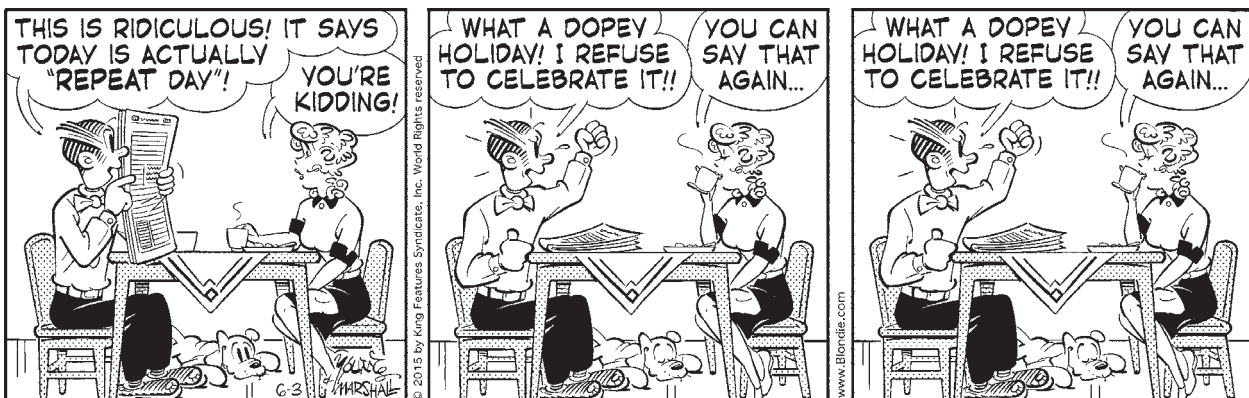
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		1	2	6	9			
			8			6		
6		8					3	
4	1				7			9
	9						8	
5	8	7						4
8	2		5				7	
3				7	8	4		
			6	2				

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	9	3	5	6	4	8	1	7
5	7	6	8	1	3	2	4	9
8	4	1	9	2	7	6	5	3
9	5	7	6	4	2	1	3	8
1	3	4	7	9	8	5	6	2
6	8	2	3	5	1	9	7	4
7	1	5	2	3	9	4	8	6
3	6	9	4	8	5	7	2	1
4	2	8	1	7	6	3	9	5

ACROSS

- Toil
- E-J connectors
- Has ___ in one's pants; is jittery
- Run off to wed
- Harness strap
- Tight, as a rope
- Makes a mess at the table
- Poor box offering
- Singer Bennett
- Summary
- Tooth coating
- Official stamp
- Exact
- Cut in half
- Capture
- ___, dos, tres...
- ___ aback; surprised
- "Ode to a Nightingale" poet
- Night twinkler
- Lowest point
- Certain
- Remained optimistic
- ___ oneself; worked steadily
- Source of light and heat
- Longest bone in the body
- Warmed up
- Tumbler
- Go by
- Summer wear
- Those who defame others
- Mah-jongg piece
- U-___; rental moving truck
- Fasten again
- Troubles
- Ending for cigar or kitchen
- Stanza
- Take a breather
- Property owner's paper
- Fencing swords

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
24							25					
26	27	28					29					
30			31		32			33	34	35	36	
37			38		39			40		41		
42			43		44			45		46		
47			48				49		50			
51	52	53					54					
55							56			57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/3/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

OPTS	MENDS	ASAN
MAUI	ABBOT	NONE
INNS	OBAMA	CONS
TEETERS	AGAINST	
	ELI	AISLE
DWARF	BUN	INTER
EARS	MAC	RETINA
AGE	MARTIAN	BAG
LONDON	IST	RICE
SNAIL	DOA	FEATS
	GABON	TIC
BLURRED	SENATOR	
LOSE	ADAMS	LONE
OWES	REBUT	LOTS
BEDS	DREGS	SLOT

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6/3/15

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 38 Plant new trees in the woods | 52 Neighbor of Argentina |
| 40 Physical therapy, for short | 53 ___ up; furls |
| 43 Money owed | 54 Made a stack |
| 45 Merit; earn | 56 Early guitar |
| 48 Prepared taters | 57 To be: Fr. |
| 50 Snoozing | 58 Get up |
| 51 Up and about | 59 Beholds |
| | 62 Polished off |

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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	911

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26	543	\$ 5,300
40	105	\$ 5000
48/49	119	\$ 4,500
30/31	524	\$3.500 each
35	314	\$4,000
30	515	\$4,900
30	311	\$5,000
23	343	\$4,500
27	103	\$4,000
29	134	\$4,500
20&21	347	\$4,500
27	341	\$4,000

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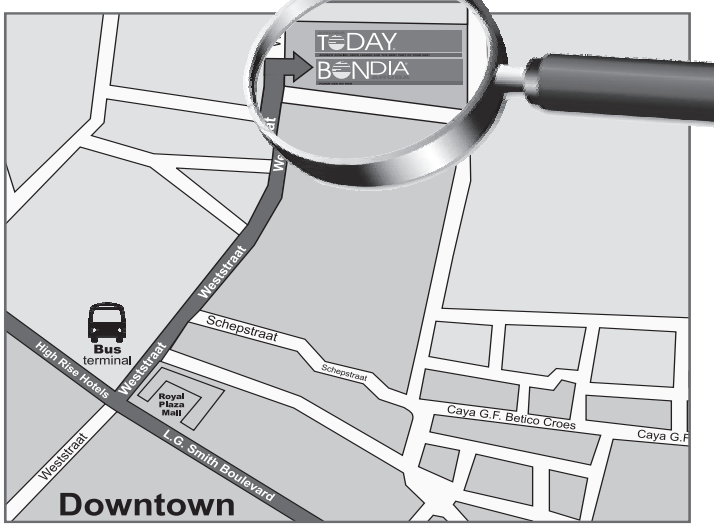
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Study: Scant evidence that medical pot helps many illnesses

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Medical marijuana has not been proven to work for many illnesses that state laws have approved it for, according to the first comprehensive analysis of research on its potential benefits.

The strongest evidence is for chronic pain and for muscle stiffness in multiple sclerosis, according to the review, which evaluated 79 studies involving more than 6,000 patients. Evidence was weak for many other conditions, including anxiety, sleep disorders, and Tourette's syndrome and the authors recommend more research.

The analysis is among several medical marijuana articles published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. They include a small study suggesting that many brand labels for edible marijuana products list inaccurate amounts of active ingredients. More than half of brands tested had much lower amounts than labeled, meaning users might get no effect.

Highlights from the journal:
THE ANALYSIS

The researchers pooled results from studies that tested marijuana against placebos, usual care or no treatment. That's the most rigorous kind of research but many studies found



This Feb. 1, 2011 file photo shows medical marijuana clone plants at a medical marijuana dispensary in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

no conclusive evidence of any benefit. Side effects were common and included dizziness, dry mouth and sleepiness. A less extensive research review in the journal found similar results. It's possible medical marijuana could have widespread benefits, but strong evidence from high-quality studies is lacking, authors of both articles say.

"It's not a wonder drug but it certainly has some potential," said Dr. Robert Wolff, a co-author and researcher with Kleijnen Systematic Reviews Ltd., a research company in York, England.
EDIBLE PRODUCTS

Researchers evaluated 47 brands of medical marijuana products, including

candy, baked goods and drinks, bought at dispensaries in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

Independent laboratory testing for THC, marijuana's leading active ingredient, found accurate amounts listed on labels for just 13 of 75 products. Almost 1 in 4 had higher amounts than labeled, which could cause ill effects. Most had lower-than-listed amounts. There were similar findings for another active ingredient. Products were not identified by name.

Johns Hopkins University researcher Ryan Vandrey, the lead author, said he was surprised so many labels were inaccurate. The researchers note, however,

that the results may not be the same in other locations.
MARIJUANA LAWS

Twenty-three U.S. states and Washington, D.C. have laws permitting medical marijuana use. Approved conditions vary but include Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, glaucoma, kidney disease, lupus and Parkinson's disease.

An editorial in the journal says approval in many states has been based on poor quality studies, patients' testimonials or other nonscientific evidence.

Marijuana is illegal under federal law and some scientists say research has been stymied by government hurdles including a declaration that marijuana is a controlled substance with no accepted medical use.

But in a notice published Tuesday in the Federal Register, the Department of Health and Human Services made it a little easier for privately funded medical marijuana research to get approved. The department said that a federal Public Health Service review of research proposals is no longer necessary because it duplicates a required review by the Food and Drug Administration.

THE FUTURE

Colorado, one of a few states where recreational marijuana use is legal, has pledged more than \$8 mil-

lion in state funds for several studies on the drug's potential medical benefits, including whether it can reduce veterans' symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. That study may begin recruiting participants later this year, said Vandrey, one of that study's leaders.

Vandrey said there's a feeling of optimism in the research community that "we'll start to get a good science base" for the potential medical uses of marijuana.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The editorial by two Yale University psychiatrists suggests enthusiasm for medical marijuana has outpaced rigorous research and says widespread use should wait for better evidence. Federal and state governments should support and encourage such research, the editorial says. "Perhaps it is time to place the horse back in front of the cart," Drs. Deepak Cyril D'Souza and Mohini Ranganathan wrote in the editorial.

They note that repeated recreational marijuana use can be addictive and say unanswered questions include what are the long-term health effects of medical marijuana use and whether its use is justified in children whose developing brains may be more vulnerable to its effects. □



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Univision dropping Miss USA pageant over Trump comments

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

Univision is dropping the Miss USA pageant and says it will cut all business ties with Donald Trump in a spiraling controversy over comments the Republican presidential candidate made recently about Mexican immigrants.

The company said Thursday it would pull the plug on its Spanish-language coverage of the pageant July 12 by its UniMas network.

It also has severed its business relationship with the Miss Universe Organization, which produces the Miss USA pageant, due to what it called "insulting remarks about Mexican immigrants" by Trump, a part owner of Miss Universe.

During his presidential campaign kickoff speech last week, Trump portrayed immigrants from Mexico as "bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists, and some, I assume, are good people." He also called for building a wall along the southern border of the U.S. The remarks drew condemnation from the Mexican government as "biased and absurd."

In an interview Thursday, Trump said his criticism was directed against U.S. policymakers, not the Mexican people or government, adding that Univision would be defaulting on its contract if it doesn't air the pageant and he would take legal action.

"At Univision, we see first-hand the work ethic, love for family, strong religious values and the important role Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans have had and will continue to have in building the future of our country," said the New York-based Univision Communications Inc. Both cohosts of the UniMas telecast also pulled out on Thursday, while Colombian singer J Balvin on Wednesday canceled a planned performance at the pageant.



In this June 16, 2013 file photo, Donald Trump, left, and Miss Connecticut USA Erin Brady pose onstage after Brady won the 2013 Miss USA pageant in Las Vegas, Nev.

Associated Press

NBC is scheduled to go forward with its own pageant coverage, as it has done since 2003.

Trump said Univision is submitting to pressure from Mexican leaders to punish him for positions he voices as a candidate on the campaign trail.

"They don't want me saying that Mexico is killing the United States in trade and killing the United States at the border," Trump said. "Univision is totally laying down for the Mexican government. ... They want to silence Donald Trump. And Donald Trump can't be silenced. ... I have great respect for Mexico and I love the Mexican people, but my loyalty is to the United States."

Univision declined to comment on Trump's remarks. In severing her ties with the show, Puerto Rican actress Roselyn Sanchez, one of the two cohosts, cited Trump's comments.

"Since I heard Trump's speech, as a Latina I felt a lump in my stomach. 'It's got to be a joke,' I thought," the star of the Lifetime series "Devious Maids" told The Associated Press.

Also on Thursday, Chilean actor-producer Cristián de la Fuente, the show's other cohost, had strong

words for Trump: "It's a shame that such an important institution as Miss USA is now in the hands of a clown."

Ricky Martin also took to Twitter to blast Trump.

"A lot of hatred and ignorance in his heart," he tweeted.

On Wednesday, Colombian singer J Balvin canceled a planned performance that was to have aired on both UniMas' and NBC's telecasts.

"The only thing I could do as a person, not only as an artist, but as a Latino that I am, was to cancel my show immediately," he told the AP on Thursday.

Miss California USA Natasha Martinez was asked about Trump's comments during an interview Thursday on Los Angeles TV station KCAL and said they were "a little bit tough to hear."

But I know that this opportunity for me as Miss California-USA, and now competing for Miss USA,

is a great bridge to kind of represent my community and let the world know that I am a proud Latino-American."

This year's UniMas telecast would have been the first in a five-year contract that Trump said "has no termination rights." Univision's wholly owned Spanish-language UniMas network, founded in 2013, is available in 70 million U.S. homes. □



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TV actor Dustin Diamond gets 4 months jail for stabbing

DANA FERGUSON,
Associated Press
PORT WASHINGTON, Wis.

(AP) — Dustin Diamond, who played Screech on the 1990s TV show "Saved by the Bell," apologized Thursday for his part in a Wisconsin barroom stabbing before being sentenced to serve 4 months in jail.

Judge Paul Malloy also sentenced Diamond to 15 months' probation and ordered him to report to jail Sunday. Diamond was convicted earlier this month on two misdemeanor counts that stemmed from a Christmas Day barroom fight.

Diamond, appearing misty-eyed, left the courtroom without commenting.

The 38-year-old actor was cleared of a felony charge last month after a three-day jury trial. The jury found him guilty of carrying a concealed weapon and disorderly conduct.

Malloy said the sentence "has to send a message to the community that we're just not going to live like this."

The actor told jurors that he took out a knife that day to try to ward off people,



In this May 29, 2015, file photo, television actor Dustin Diamond, center, leaves court in Port Washington, Wisc., after being convicted of two misdemeanors stemming from a barroom fight on Christmas Day 2014.

Associated Press.

including a woman who punched his girlfriend. He said he then accidentally stabbed a man during an altercation.

"I sincerely apologize to everyone involved," Diamond said at the hearing Thursday. "This was the single most terrifying experience of my life ... This is all I've been able to think about for the last six months."

Witnesses testified that Dia-

mond's girlfriend, Amanda Schutz, pushed one woman at the bar and grabbed another woman's hand, initiating the bar fight. Schutz was also convicted of disorderly conduct last month and Malloy fined her \$500. Ozaukee County District Attorney Adam Gerol said during the trial that Diamond lied about what happened and that the actor had scripted his testimony. □

Patrick Macnee, star of 1960s TV series 'The Avengers,' dies



This 1966 photo provided by ABC shows, Patrick Macnee, left, as John Steed, and Diana Rigg as Emma Peel, British secret agents in a scene from "The Avengers." Associated Press

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Patrick Macnee, the British-born actor best known as dapper secret agent John Steed in the long-running 1960s TV series "The Avengers," has died. He was 93.

Macnee died Thursday of natural causes with his family at his bedside in Rancho Mirage, his son Rupert said in a statement.

The clever spy drama, which began in 1961 in Britain, debuted in the United States in 1966. It ran for eight seasons and continued in syndication for decades afterward.

Macnee's umbrella-wielding character appeared in all but two episodes, accompanied by a string of beautiful women who were his sidekicks. The most popular was likely Diana Rigg, who played sexy junior agent Emma Peel from 1965 to 1968. Honor Blackman played Catherine Gale from 1962 to 1964, and Linda Thorson was Tara King from 1968 to 1969.

"We were in our own mad, crazy world," Macnee told the Wichita Eagle in 2003 when "The New Avengers" was being issued on DVD. "We were the TV Beatles. We even filmed in the same studio."

But while he made his name internationally play-

ing a smart, debonair British secret agent, Macnee was never a fan of the James Bond movies.

"I think their stories aren't that realistic," he told Salt Lake City's Deseret News in 1999. "I think the sadism in them is horrifying. ... On the other hand, the books — the James Bond books — were fascinating."

Macnee nearly lost the role of Steed because of his aversion to violence. In a 1997 interview with The Associated Press, he recalled being told by producers that he would have to pack a gun on "The Avengers."

"I said, 'No, I don't. I've been in World War II for five years and I've seen most of my friends blown to bits and I'm not going to carry a gun.' They said, 'What are you going to carry?' I thought frantically and said, 'An umbrella.'"

The talented Macnee, who managed to make the improbable weapon seem probable, later became an outspoken opponent of the proliferation of privately owned guns.

In his droll 1992 autobiography, "Blind in One Ear," Macnee noted that his early life matched that of his famed character, John Steed, in many ways.

The fictional John Wickham Gascoyne Berresford Steed was born in the mid-1920s to a noble British family, educated at Eton and served in the military during World War II.

Daniel Patrick Macnee was born Feb. 6, 1922, in London to a pair of eccentrics, and he also attended Eton, although he claimed to have been thrown out for dealing in horse race bets and pornography. He also served in the military during World War II, captaining torpedo boats that sought to destroy German U-boats in French waters. Before he left Eton, Macnee had discovered acting. He apprenticed in the British theater. □

Roger Ailes signs new contract at Fox

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Ailes has signed a new contract to continue as chief executive of Fox News Channel, the network that has become a ratings and financial powerhouse since he created it two decades ago, 21st Century Fox said Thursday.

The parent company moved quickly to lock up Ailes, 75, after speculation about his future emerged last week following news that company patriarch Rupert Murdoch was turning over some power to his sons Lachlan and James. Terms, including the length

of the contract, were not disclosed. Ailes' contract was to expire next June.

Fox News is wildly popular with conservatives and has significantly more viewers than its news competitors. Its look, philosophy and personnel are a reflection of its chief executive in a manner unlike any other network. Ailes also oversees the Fox Business Network and Fox-owned local affiliates. The announcement also said that Ailes will report jointly to Rupert, Lachlan and James Murdoch, a seemingly small detail that was at the root of questions about his future.

The financial firm SNL Ka-



In this Feb. 9, 2015, file photo, Roger Ailes attends a special screening of "Kingsman: The Secret Service" in New York. Associated Press

gan estimates that Fox News Channel will earn \$2.18 billion in revenue from affiliates and advertising in 2015, a number likely to increase in future years as more lucrative deals with cable and satellite providers kick in. The network accounted for 18 percent of 21st Century Fox's profits in 2014, Kagan said. □

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